

**Wesley College Old Students' Association
Annual Meeting 2025**

President's Report

First, a reflection on 2024, a year of keeping the WCOSA ship on course. The year where we marked the 180th anniversary of the foundation of the College in 1844. The year in which those of us 'the living' gathered to mark this milestone, and the influence that a place called Wesley College – the only place that for a while some of us knew as home – had and continues to have on our lives.

We are in a position at this meeting to recognize that our active membership is few; and that while these few may be enthusiastic, any event held is dependent on the goodwill and backing of the current College management and two Boards. A very different WCOSA structure would have to be in place to create a different outcome. To Dr Brian Evans and the College, WCOSA can only express its appreciation of the support so demonstrated.

Soon we will hear the Principal's report to this meeting. Your Executive Committee were privileged to receive this report a few days ago. We will, this afternoon, hear the 'good news' and the taking of opportunity presented to and by current students.

Conversations I've have had with interested parties during the last months have focused on appreciation pf recent media shots of students, especially, in very recent days, those related to rugby. There are two events not covered by any media that have 'warmed my heart'. The first is the recognition given to three former female students at last year's Methodist Conference – one for her contribution to Methodist print media, and two sisters for their part in the Conference Organising Committee, one of whom had a significant role in formulating the role description of a significant leader in the Church, te Kai Hapai. The intention of our founder, Rev Walter Lawry, in advocating for a place for young leaders to develop leadership skills to support both whanau and hāhi was evident in their recognition. Then, secondly, my 'heart was also warmed' when a significant number of old students recently rallied to support Samantha, herself an Old Student, and their children to mark the death of Old Student Heremaia Pene, attending the funeral observances held at Tipene Funerals in Onehunga and then at Heremaia's tangi in Opotiki. The partnership of Heremaia and Samantha had its spark at Wesley College and their peers gathered to farewell one of their own in what could only be described as a "Wesley Way".

Finally to those who give their enthusiastic support to WCOSA matters as Officers and Committee members, thank you.